

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Office Action mailed October 16, 2003, in connection with the above-identified patent application, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the following amendments and remarks.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 30 and 46 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-29 cancelled.

30. (currently amended): A method of selecting those members of a group of compounds that can form a non-covalent complex with a target molecule comprising:

selecting a mass spectrometer;

selecting a standard compound that forms a non-covalent binding complex with said target molecule, said non-covalent binding complex having a baseline affinity;

mixing an amount of said standard compound with an excess amount of said target molecule such that unbound target molecule is present in said mixture;

introducing said mixture of said standard compound and said target molecule into said mass spectrometer;

adjusting the ~~operating performance conditions of said mass spectrometer~~ mass spectrometer desolvation conditions such that the signal strength of said standard compound bound to said target molecule is from 1% to about 30% of signal strength of unbound target molecule;

introducing a sub-set of said group of compounds into a test mixture of said target molecule and said standard compound;

introducing said test mixture into said mass spectrometer;

identifying the members of said sub-set that form complexes with said target by discerning signals arising from said members complexed with said target and identifying the members by their respective molecular masses.